

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR RANKING SERVICES IN
A WEB SERVICES ARCHITECTURE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0100] A method includes ranking services in a web services architecture and a web services architecture. The web services architecture has a hierarchy of services with a root originating service requestor and a service of a first level in the hierarchy calling a service of a lower level. The originating service requestor indicates a preference regarding one or more services and a ranking machine provides a choice algorithm based on the preference. The originating service requestor invokes services of one or more levels of hierarchy. At each level of the hierarchy, a service uses a directory to find a set of possible lower-level services and the ranking machine applies the choice algorithm to the set of possible lower-level services. In one embodiment, the set of possible lower-level services is referred to the ranking machine from the directory and a preferred sequence is returned by the ranking machine to the directory.